

Amendment dated 07/21/05
Response to Office Action dated 05/26/05

Application No. 10/662,037

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1-9 are rejected by this Office Action. Claims 10-19 are allowed.

The present patent application is a continuation application of Application No. 09/320,816 (granted as US Patent No. 6,721,713) filed on May 27, 1999.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action alleges that the IDS filed on December 20, 2004 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2). As indicated in the IDS, the present patent application is a continuation of U.S.S.N. 09/320,816 (granted as US Patent No. 6,721,713). In accordance with MPEI 609.I.A.2, the examiner will consider prior art that has been considered by the Office in a parent application. The Applicants filed the IDS on December 20, 2004 so that the cited prior art will print on the patent that issues from the present patent application. Accordingly, foreign patents JP 6-274504 and WO 97/21179 and publication Stein, Tom; Manufacturing should be considered because all of the above-mentioned references were considered in the parent application 09/320,816.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-9 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The Applicants have amended claim 1 to be directed to "An apparatus that identifies alliances among a plurality of business entities in components of a network framework" that includes "a processor that executes a computer program to support an identification of the alliances," "a memory that stores information under control of the processor," "logic that identifies at least one alliance among a plurality of business entities in terms of components of a current network framework," "logic that displays a pictorial representation of the current network framework and the components," and "logic that conveys the at least one alliance by indicia coding the components of the current network framework in which the at least one

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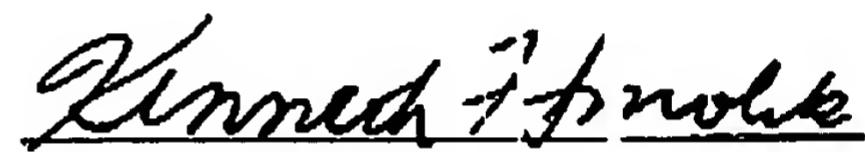
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alliance exists." The Office Action admits that claims 1-9 produce a useful, tangible, and concrete result. Claim 1, as amended, contains apparatus that is limited in the technological arts and that produces a useful, tangible, and concrete result. Moreover, claims 2-9 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are directed to statutory subject matter for the above reasons. The Applicants request reconsideration of claims 1-9.

All objections and rejections have been addressed. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 21, 2005


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